

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 2-10 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 11.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 7-9 have been amended. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in the original claims. Also, claims 11-18 have been added. These amendments are fully supported by, for example, paragraphs 0023-0029 of the original specification and Fig. 1. No new matter has been added in this reply.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Also, with respect to what is meant by the recitation “selectively” in claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that, as described in the original specification, the gears 3 and 4 are provided slidably and rotatably around the sleeve 5, which is fixedly attached to the connecting shaft 60. Further, the gears 3 and 4 comprise the mating teeth 32 and 43 at the inner peripheral portions thereof, respectively, while the gear teeth 50 are provided on the outer surface of the sleeve 50. The mating teeth 32 of the gear 3 or the mating teeth 42 of the gear 4 *selectively* mesh with the gear teeth 50 of the sleeve 5. *See*

paragraphs 0027-0029 and Fig. 1. This means either the gear 3 or 4 selectively meshes with the gear teeth of the connector shaft. In view of the above, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Japan Patent No. 2,595,262 (hereinafter the “Japan ‘262 patent”). Claim 1 has been now limited specifically to a hammer drill having a percussive force converter mechanism disposed between a motor and a connector shaft. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a mechanism of a hammer drill for boring through using rotational forces and percussive forces to a drill bit. Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation of “a percussive force converter mechanism, disposed between said motor and said connector shaft, for converting percussive forces of said percussive member through changing the rotational speed ratio of said motor and said connector shaft.”

The Japan ‘262 patent, in contrast, does not include at least the limitation recited in claim 1. The Japan ‘262 patent merely discloses a gear change mechanism 6 disposed between a spindle 3 and a intermediate shaft 23. In the Japan ‘262 patent, the gear change mechanism 6 needs to be disposed proximate to the spindle 3. This is because the invention disclosed in the Japan ‘262 patent allows for the gear change mechanism 6 automatically changing the rotational speed ratio depending on a load on a tool 8 hold by the spindle 3.

On the other hand, the percussive force converter mechanism recited in claim 1 is disposed between the motor and the connector shaft. Thus, the percussive force converter mechanism recited in claim 1 is not the same as, or equivalent to, the gear change mechanism disclosed in the

Japan '262 patent.

In view of the above, the Japan '262 patent fails to show or suggest the claimed invention as recited in the claim 1 as amended. Thus, claim 1 as amended is patentable over the Japan '262 patent. Dependent claims 2-9 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, new claims 11-18 have been added in this reply. New independent claim 11 includes similar limitations to claim 1 as amended. Specifically, independent claim 11 includes the limitation of "a transmission mechanism disposed between said motor and said connector shaft, configured to change a rotational speed ratio between said motor and said connector shaft." Therefore, as mentioned above, the Japan '262 patent fails to show or suggest at least the limitation as recited new claim 11. Thus, claim 11 is patentable over the Japan '262 patent. Dependent claims 12-18 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, entry and allowance of new claims 11-18 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03115.030001).

Respectfully submitted,

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